

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ILLINOIS	
COUNTY: COOK	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Charles Hitchcock Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1009 East 57th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chicago

STATE: **Illinois** CODE: COUNTY: **Cook** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The University of Chicago

STREET AND NUMBER:
5801 Ellis Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Chicago** STATE: **Illinois** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cook County Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
County Building, 118 North Clark Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Chicago** STATE: **Illinois** CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **October, 1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Glessner House

STREET AND NUMBER:
1800 South Prairie Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Chicago** STATE: **Illinois** CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **ILLINOIS**
COUNTY: **COOK**
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION

Charles Hitchcock Hall is located on the University of Chicago campus at the southeast corner of 57th Street and Ellis Avenue. The building is adjacent to and forms a group with the Anatomy Building on the east and Snell Hall on the south. The main entrance to Hitchcock Hall faces south overlooking a tree lined quadrangle. Constructed of blue Bedford limestone, the typical material used for all of the early University buildings, the Hall is characterized by its simplified medieval form which subtly recalls the predominately gothic style of the original campus.

Planned as a four story building to accommodate approximately one hundred undergraduate students, each floor is carried by steel beams as is also the tile roof which is terminated by a continuous copper ridge. All of the exterior ornamental details, including the chimney caps, are of carved stone.

Although primarily intended as a dormitory, Hitchcock Hall afforded its residents such amenities as a clubroom, an infirmary, a kitchen, a breakfast room and a generous library. The clubroom and a laundry area were located in the basement and continue to be used. The breakfast room, the kitchen and the infirmary have since been converted into resident quarters and along with the updating of the bathrooms and stairways, constitute the major portion of a minimum number of alterations. Generally the overall integrity of the interior has been maintained and the exterior has never been disturbed except for the addition of fire escapes along the north side of the building.

In plan, each floor consists of five individual dormitory units separated by brick walls and connected by a cloister-like corridor at the ground level. Described as an "Oxford type" plan, the arrangement allows only vertical communication between floors by way of stairways located at the center of each unit. This vertical emphasis is clearly expressed on the exterior, along the primary facade, by a pair of pilasters which frame the stairwells and add a subtle counterpoint to what is otherwise a strong horizontal composition. The building is entered through one of two ornamental doorways which are set at opposite ends of the longitudinal corridor. The first floor is then reached by a short flight of stairs, placing it some five feet above the ground level. The interior walls are plaster with red oak trim and with the exception of the library are devoid of any ornamental detail. Variety is introduced by the use of an umber colored Roman brick in the walls separating the individual units. Further relief is gained by the fact that a number of fireplaces are placed within these walls thus providing many of the residents with a distinctive micro environment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Charles Hitchcock Hall - Sheet #1
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE ILLINOIS	
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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

The library, located at the east end of the first floor, was intended to be and continues to be the common focal point of the entire Hall. It is a richly detailed space containing a generous polygonal bay with built-in seating. This bay extends beyond the face of the building and out onto the quadrangle at the south allowing considerable light and air to penetrate the deep space. The room itself is flanked with oak book cases built-in below the line of the windows. The north wall is brick and contains a monumental fireplace with a substantial oak mantel and an inset oak panel on the wall above. The glazed tile floor of reds, browns and ochres set in a geometric pattern serves to unify the space into a contiguous earthy whole. This low-key composition is superbly complimented by the ornamental details found at the ceiling. Consisting of a continuous soffit and a number of lowered beams, these elements are sheathed with delicate plaster representations of indigenous Illinois plant life set into a geometric pattern. This plant life theme is also used on the exterior of the building and can be seen framing the doors of the main entryways and also on the capitals of the aforementioned pilasters.

HISTORY

In December of 1900, the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago was informed that Mrs. Charles Hitchcock was prepared to give the University a large sum of money for the purpose of erecting a memorial to her late husband. Mr. Hitchcock, a prominent Chicago lawyer and politician who was the President of The Constitutional Convention of 1869, which had framed the new State Constitution of Illinois, had died in 1881. In a letter to President William Rainey Harper dated January 1, 1900, Mrs. Hitchcock stipulated that a substantial portion of the two hundred thousand dollars she would donate was to be used to finance the construction of a new men's dormitory and that the Committee on Buildings and Grounds were instructed to have the plans for Charles Hitchcock Hall prepared by Dwight Heald Perkins, architect of Chicago.

who
Dwight Perkins^v was born in Memphis, Tennessee on March 26, 1867, attended the Chicago public schools and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After serving on the faculty of M.I.T., he returned to Chicago in 1889, and entered the prestigious office of Burnham and Root staying with them for a period of five years whereupon he began to practice architecture independently. Best known for his pioneering and bold innovations in educational architecture, Perkins was

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Charles Hitchcock Hall - Sheet #2

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

7. HISTORY, continued
considered one of the key members of the so-called "Chicago School". It was in the loft of the Steinway Building which he had designed, that Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin and others began to formulate the principles of building which would eventually lead to a truly modern style. But it is to Dwight Perkins as an environmental planner that the citizens of Chicago and Cook County owe a great and everlasting debt. For over twenty years Mr. Perkins served as chairman of the Plan Committee of the Cook County Forest Preserve Commission and it is chiefly through his efforts that the present extent of the forest preserve system is in existence today.

As early as June of 1900, a preliminary drawing showing the south elevation of Hitchcock Hall had been prepared and by the following May, Perkins was instructed to secure the bids to begin construction. The cornerstone was laid on June 15, 1901. The Hall was completed in September of 1902, at a cost of \$150,499.00, and was occupied in October of the same year.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1900 - 1902**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

As a design by Dwight Perkins in a style transitional between the historic styles and a modern style, Hitchcock Hall is of considerable significance in the evolution of the Prairie School movement. Outwardly the building is medieval, in keeping with other structures on the University of Chicago campus, but in its details, it is very original. Some of its ornament comes from local flowers and plants, while other bits come from the work of Louis Sullivan.

The concept of arranging student rooms around staircases that open into a corridor at ground level provides a good and rare example in the Midwest of English college planning. That it turns its back to the street and opens into an interior court links it to the same tradition.

The variations in arranging rooms, some as suites, some with skylights, many with fireplaces of a simple Wrightian sort, was designed to suit differing student preferences and pocketbooks. In this way the building also serves as a midwestern example of planning for the aristocratic student, and thus a way of life that is rare today.

Aesthetically the design in massing and details is of very high quality. That it is the work of a man closely associated with Frank Lloyd Wright also enhances its prestige.

Finally, the building stands as a memorial to Mrs. Hitchcock, in that she actively involved herself in its design, construction and interior furnishings, sometimes in the face of strong opposition from the Board of Trustees.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, H. Allen, The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries, 1972, pp. 28-29, 61

Goodspeed, Thomas Wakefield, A History of the University of Chicago, 1916, pp. 344-345

Perkins, Fellows and Hamilton, Educational Buildings, 1925, pp. 157-159

Goodspeed, Thomas Wakefield, The University of Chicago Biographical Sketches, Volume I, 1922, pp. 199-223

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jon S. Pohl, Staff Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Illinois Historic Structures Survey DATE: 10-Sept-74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1800 South Prairie Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

CK-H-45

✓ 200784

1. Name of Site:

Common ~~1009 E. 57th St.~~ HITCHCOCK HALL

Historic

2. Location:

Street and Number 1009 E. 57th St. (cor. Ellis Township Section
City or Town Chicago Zip Code Range 1/4 Section
County Cook

3. Classification:

Category (check one) Integrity (check one)
() District (x) Building () Altered (x) Unaltered
() Site () Structure () Moved (x) Original Site

4. Ownership:

(x) Private () Public Status (check one)
(x) Occupied () Unoccupied () Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

() Yes (x) Restricted () Unrestricted () No

Present Use (check one or more)

() Agricultural () Industrial () Religious
() Commercial () Military () Scientific
(x) Educational () Museum () Transportation
() Entertainment () Park () Other
() Government () Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Univ. of Chicago Phone Number
Street and Number
City or Town
State County Zip Code

6. Description: Educational building a transitional style.

(x) Excellent (x) Good () Fair () Deteriorated
() Ruins () Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? (x) Yes ? () No

ARCHITECTURE

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates) Dwight Perkins

8. Specific Date: 1902

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic) Literature
- Aboriginal (pre-historic) Military
- Agriculture Music
- Architecture Political
- Art Religion/Philosophy
- Commerce Science
- Communication Sculpture
- Conservation Social/Humanitarian
- Education Theater
- Engineering Transportation
- Industry Urban Planning
- Invention Other (specify)
- Landscape Architecture

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
 Use additional sheets if necessary. A transition from Perkins historic to his modern National Register.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: _____ Date: 6/23/75

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Street and Number: _____

City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

National Register material.

